



The Legacy Program

Nature's Classroom:
Learning on Public Lands

What is Legacy?

Legacy is a hands-on environmental stewardship program promoting environmental education on public lands

- **Partners local schools with nearby public lands owned by the SFWMD**
- **Shares our expertise in land management, water resource and environmental science**
- **Provides outdoor learning activities for students and instills a sense of stewardship for the environment**



Legacy Goals

- Utilize Legacy Program to assist in meeting land management needs
- Enhance environmental stewardship in youth
- Encourage recreational use of public lands



Legacy Key Features

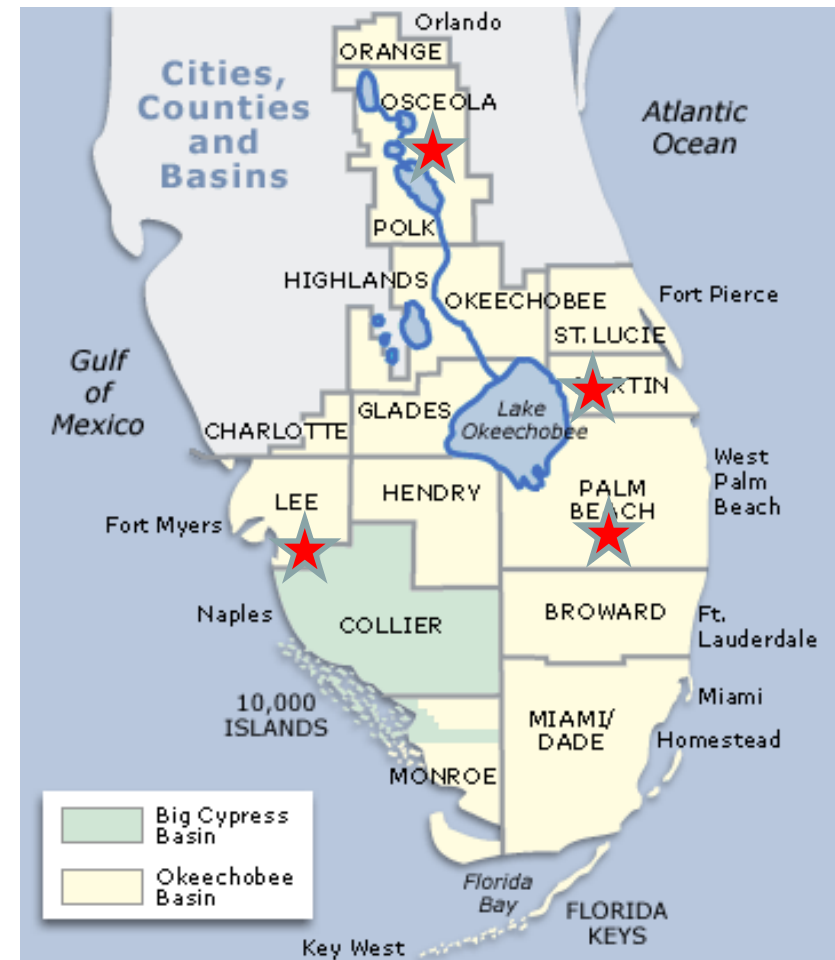
- Multiple visits by the same group of students
- Involvement of technical specialists (land managers, scientists, engineers)
- Activities that leave a “legacy” on the property
 - Bird counts, wildlife surveys, water & soil analysis
 - Cascade teaching to younger students



Pilot Legacy Program Site Locations



- **CREW Management Area**
(Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed)
Lee and Collier Counties
- **DuPuis Management Area**
Martin County
- **LILA**
(Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment)
Palm Beach County
- **Osceola Environmental Study Center**
Osceola County



CREW Management Area LEE AND COLLIER COUNTIES



- **26,400 acres that provide flood control, improved water quality, aquifer recharge and resource protection**
- **Habitat for wildlife such as Florida panther, snail kite, wood stork, black bear and red-shouldered hawks**
- **Legacy activities:**
 - **Bird surveys for annual data reports**
 - **Data result presentations**

CREW Legacy in Action



DuPuis Management Area

MARTIN COUNTY



- **21,875 acres of natural area with ponds, wet prairies, cypress domes, pine flatwoods and remnant Everglades marsh**
- **400-foot boardwalk trail provides a path through a cypress swamp**
- **22 miles of hiking trails and 40 miles of horseback trails**
- **Legacy activities:**
 - **GPS and photo documentation of pine flatwoods understory restoration**
 - **PowerPoint presentations developed for younger students**

DuPuis Legacy in Action



LILA (Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment) PALM BEACH COUNTY



- Located on the grounds of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- 80-acre living laboratory that mimics (on a smaller scale) how the 1.7 million-acre Everglades functions
- Legacy activities:
 - Water quality monitoring and aquatic invertebrate surveys
 - Test for critical water quality parameters, collect data and analyze results

LILA Legacy in Action



Osceola Environmental Studies Center

OSCEOLA COUNTY



- **Environmental Center sits on 850 acres at Lake Russell**
- **Prominent floodplain swamp with other natural communities including rare dry prairie, flatwoods and scrub habitat**
- **Legacy activities:**
 - **Conduct wildlife surveys and map locations using GPS**
 - **Implement procedures to enhance wildlife habitat**

Osceola Environmental Center Legacy in Action



Students Recall What They Liked Best



“The swamp because I've never been anywhere like this.”

“All the outside activities. I love the environment!”

“The boardwalk that puts us in the middle of the marsh.”

“Setting the stakes and stomping through the woods.”

“Finding the Geocache after searching so hard.”

“Experiencing the beautiful boardwalk.”

Students Recall What They Liked Best (cont.)



“Talking with the SFWMD scientists.”

“The nature center. Learning about the animals was exciting.”

“Walking through the palmettos and connecting with nature.”

***“Holding the lubber (grasshopper).
I didn't know they were so tame.”***

***“Marking the transects, then looking up
to see 3 bald eagles flying overhead.
This wouldn't happen just any place!”***

Legacy Program Contact

Visit our website

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/legacy>

*Teach the children well
and they become life-long
ambassadors for the environment!*





Thank you. Questions?